

WUIS to air special coverage of race riot

By Staff reports

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Public radio station WUIS will present special, original programming Wednesday through Friday in observance of the 100th anniversary of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot.

WUIS reporter Jenna Dooley produced this special coverage, segments of which will air each day on Morning Edition at 8:20 a.m. and All Things Considered at 4:50 p.m. Illinois Edition will also present programming observing the centennial at 6:30 p.m. Friday and at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 9.

While Springfield is known as the home of Abraham Lincoln, the city was also the site of a darker chapter in the history of American race relations. One hundred years ago this August, racial tensions erupted into three days of rioting that left two black men dead and many black-owned businesses burned to the ground. Several others, black and white, were injured in the mob violence.

These special programs will present a history and timeline of those bloody three days, including archived audio clips from first-person accounts. Listeners also will hear an interview with the oral historian who, some years later, collected interviews from members of the black community who had lived through the riot. Finally, a look at the status of race relations in Springfield today will include conversations with community members who are taking a leadership role in preserving the history of the past.

WUIS-WIPA is a listener-supported public radio service of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

For more information or for the program schedule, visit www.wuis.org.

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